

# Access

Published by the Library of Michigan

July/August 1998 Issue

Volume XVI NO. 1

ISSN 1051-0818

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## **Access Has A** **New Look**

Welcome to the first issue of the new *Access*! We've been planning a makeover for our bimonthly publication for several months now. We wanted to create a more positive, upbeat look that drew people's attention to all of the great information and latest accomplishments of Michigan's libraries. Thanks to the multi-talented efforts of Marnie Childs, the Library of Michigan's graphic designer, we believe we've produced a livelier, friendlier publication for our 3,000-plus readers.

Over the next few months, you'll find new columns that will introduce you to the Library of Michigan's board of trustees, enjoy more photographs and illustrations, learn more about the unique accomplishments achieved by several of the public libraries around the state and discover the latest information about national programs, such as the Universal Service Fund or what the American Library Association is sponsoring. We've even changed the colors of *Access*.

We hope you like our latest efforts. Please let us know what you think. And keep those story ideas coming!

*Carey L. Draeger*  
Public Information Officer  
Library of Michigan

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## **Michigan Friends of Education Win Distinguished Service Award**

On May 15, 1998, the Michigan Friends of Education were honored by the Michigan Education Association with its "highest possible honor within the power" of that association to bestow, the Distinguished Service Award. Established in 1952, the award recognizes the outstanding service to education at the state or national level.

MFE Director Donald H. Porter noted, "It was a real honor and one sincerely appreciated after 15 years of hard work, often under very difficult circumstances."

# Director's Chair



The Library of Michigan Act (Public Act 540 of 1982) established this Library and set out certain duties for the state librarian and the board of trustees. One of these duties (MCL §397.20, Section 10, subsection 3g) is to "encourage contractual and cooperative arrangements between and among all kinds of libraries for the improvement of library services to the people of this state." Additionally, the Library is also empowered to "promote and advance library science in this state" (subsection 31).

Linda McFadden, the Library of Michigan Board of Trustees president, and her immediate predecessor, Bonnie Gasperini, have taken these duties very seriously. Bonnie started the tradition of inviting representatives of all different types of libraries to meet with the LM board to discuss areas of mutual interest, and by attending the meetings of other library associations. This spring, Linda convened two meetings with the administrations of the Michigan Library Association for Media in Education (MAME), the Michigan Library Association (MLA), the Michigan Library Consortium (MLC) and the state's two chapters of the Special Libraries Association (SLA).

Out of these meetings came a draft statement of common values, which is presented to the library community here and in a number of other venues for your comment and suggestions.

## Statement of Common Values

The (organizations that sign on to this statement) believe that libraries of all types have an integral role to play in the educational, economic and social success of the residents of Michigan. They further believe that to achieve this success, libraries must be staffed by people with current and constantly refreshed skills and education.

We are committed to assuring that information be available for all, when and where it is needed. Toward that end, we pledge our combined efforts:

- to work as advocates for Michigan's residents in assuring access to library resources;
- to work for equitable access regardless of geographic or economic status;
- to enable Michigan's residents to become the nation's most discerning and self-reliant information users; and
- to pursue collaborative opportunities that better enable us to serve our publics and our constituencies.

I hope this statement captures your interest and your attention. If it does (or, even more importantly, if it doesn't), please let me know. Send your comments directly to me at the Library of Michigan (the address is on the back cover) or by email at [gneedham@libofmich.lib.mi.us](mailto:gneedham@libofmich.lib.mi.us). Have a great summer!

by George Needham  
State Librarian

## LM Foundation Donates Rainbow Readers to SBPH

by Jackie Payne  
Executive Director  
Library of Michigan Foundation



Library of Michigan visitors with impaired vision will be able to read and write in the Library by using the Aladdin Rainbow Readers, electronic magnifiers that may be used to read texts or view maps, illustrations or photographs in full color. Three Aladdin Rainbow readers were purchased by the Library of Michigan Foundation for the Library. Two will be located in the main library and one in the law library. The reader resembles a computer monitor mounted at eye level above a platform on which the reader places material to be read, or the paper on which he or she wishes to write. The reader magnifies the image on the page in black and white or in many combinations of high-contrast color, such as amber letters on black, or yellow letters on blue.

The Rainbow Reader features a zoom control, which allows users to control the amount of magnification, a fine focus control for sharpness and six picture controls for determining various color combinations for text in addition to full-color reproduction of color pictures.

Purchase of the Aladdin Rainbow Readers was made possible by gifts sent to the foundation from patrons of the Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. These gifts are often memorial gifts made by family members of a person who was blind or who had limited vision and enjoyed the books on tape provided by the Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.

In other LM Foundation news, the Loleta Fyan Memorial Trust will fund a new scholarship for librarians and staff. Scholarships of up to \$300 will be available for the cost of courses selected by the staff member and offered by local community colleges or other recognized institutions. Get the full details by emailing [lmfoundation@libofmich.lib.mi.us](mailto:lmfoundation@libofmich.lib.mi.us).

The foundation recently distributed three challenge grants for literacy programs in Michigan: \$10,000 to the Farmington Community Library, \$2,000 to the Gratiot County Reading Program and \$3,000 to the Genesee County Literacy Coalition. Congratulations to these fine organizations on their fund-raising creativity and excellent work in the literacy field. Applications for grants are welcome at any time. For an application and guidelines, call Jackie Payne at 517-373-1297 or email her at [jpayne@libofmich.lib.mi.us](mailto:jpayne@libofmich.lib.mi.us).

## Internet Teach-In Set for September 16

To help ensure that children have a safe and rewarding experience online, the American Library Association (ALA) is urging libraries to support "America Links Up," a national teach-in to educate parents, children and others about the Internet.

The teach-in is scheduled to launch the week of September 14-20. The public will be encouraged to attend local teach-ins at participating libraries nationwide. "Libraries are a primary link to the Internet in communities across the country, and librarians are committed to helping children have the best on-line experience possible," said Barbara J. Ford, president of ALA. "We are excited to be a part of this outreach effort and encourage all public, school and academic libraries to play a leadership role in their communities."

Ford noted that libraries without Internet access can work with local telecommunications companies, computer groups, other schools and libraries to offer teach-ins. Libraries may also highlight computer and technology-related books and other on-line resources.

ALA is sponsoring the teach-in along with other education, industry and child advocacy groups, including the U.S. Department of Education, National Association of Secondary School Principals, Center for Media Education, the Children's Partnership and America On-line, among others.

The America Links Up public education campaign was announced at the Internet-On-line Summit: Focus on Children, held in December 1997. ALA was a sponsor and presenter at the event.

For updated information and to register your participation in the teach-in, visit the ALA website at <http://www.ala.org/teach-in/> or contact the ALA Public Information Office at 1-800-545-2433, ext. 5044/5041. You may also email ALA at [teach-in@ala.org](mailto:teach-in@ala.org). For a fax on demand, telephone 1-800-545-2433 and press 8.

## SPAN: The Real Story

by Aaron Smith

OCLC Services Manager and Network Librarian  
Michigan Library Consortium

The Serials, Periodicals and Newspapers (SPAN) is a database that represents the magazine, newspaper, journal and periodical holdings of Michigan libraries. SPAN is available on the World Wide Web to any library, home or office with an Internet connection—its website is located at <http://span.accessmichigan.lib.mi.us:9000>.

The database is funded by the Library of Michigan with federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds. It contains nearly 200,000 records and represents the serial holdings of more than 800 libraries throughout the state.

Libraries that use the On-line Computer Library Center (OCLC), the world's largest bibliographic utility based in Dublin, Ohio, to perform interlibrary loan transactions may also use an interlibrary loan workform in SPAN to complete requests and electronically send the form from SPAN to their own OCLC Interlibrary Loan files. From there the SPAN request may be sent to other libraries participating in the OCLC Interlibrary Loan Subsystem.

SPAN's introduction gives Michigan citizens unprecedented access to various magazine, newspaper, journal and other periodical publications in Michigan's libraries. Patrons whose libraries are members of OCLC may send SPAN requests to their local library—anywhere, any time—in the library or from their homes or offices.

SPAN is one component of the AccessMichigan project, which is supported by the Library of Michigan with federal LSTA funds. AccessMichigan includes free access to many databases through OCLC's FirstSearch Service and through IAC, the Information Access Corporation based in Foster City, California. Technical support for SPAN is provided by the Michigan Library Consortium, a nonprofit library membership organization that serves over 600 libraries throughout Michigan.

To learn more about SPAN and AccessMichigan, visit the AccessMichigan website at <http://www.accessmichigan.lib.mi.us>.



## Congratulations, Grace York

by Debbie Gallagher

Government Information Specialist  
Michigan Electronic Library (MEL)

One of Michigan's government documents superstars, Grace York, has added another award to her well-stocked trophy case. The May 15 issue of *Library Journal* named its Notable Government Documents of 1997 and Grace's website was included. The folks at the *Library Journal* said of the University of Michigan Documents Center, "This comprehensive and useful site includes materials on business and industry, foreign trade, census, and economic data. It offers many useful links to government agencies and is packed with information."

What the article didn't mention was Grace's tireless fight to preserve and expand public access to government information. The URL to the University of Michigan Documents Center is <http://www.lib.umich.edu/libhome/Documents.center/>.

# July is...

- named for Roman statesman Julius Caesar, who was born in July.
- Anti-Boredom Month—check with your local librarian for interesting programs and books to keep boredom out of your life.
- National Baked Bean Month
- National Hot Dog Month
- National Ice Cream Month
- National Blueberry Month
- National Get Along With Your Ex Month
- National Parks and Recreation Month—Visit the Michigan Electronic Library at <http://mel.lib.mi.us> for helpful travel tips to state and national parks in Michigan and around the country.

## Special Days in July

### • July 1

One-hundred-thirty-fifth anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg. This three-day conflict at the small town of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, proved to be one of the Civil War's most crucial battles.

### • July 3

Compliment-Your-Mirror Day

### • July 3 - August 15

Dog Days are considered the hottest days of the year in the northern hemisphere. They once were believed to be an evil time when “the sea boiled, wine turned sour, dogs grew mad and all creatures became languid, causing to man burning fevers, hysterics and phrensies.”

### • July 4

Independence Day. The Declaration of Independence was approved by the Continental Congress on this day in 1776. The official signing took place on August 2, 1776.

### • July 18

Birthday of the Oscar Meyer Wienermobile, which was invented in 1936

### • July 22

Rat Catcher's Day

### July 24

Detroit's Birthday. On this day in 1701, Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac landed at the site of what is now the city of Detroit.

# August is...

- named in honor of the Roman emperor, Augustus, who was also the grandnephew and adoptive son of Julius Caesar.
- Medic Alert Awareness Month—Visit the Michigan Electronic Library on the Internet at <http://mel.lib.mi.us> for the latest health information.
- National Catfish Month
- National Water Quality Month
- Romance Awareness Month—Your local library has lots of romance novels, videos of romantic comedies and self-help books to put romance back in your life!

## Special Days in August

• August 1 National Mustard Day

• August 1-7 Simplify Your Life Week

• August 2 American Family Day

• August 2 Sisters' Day

• August 3-9 National Bargain Hunting Week; National Smile Week; Psychic Week

• August 7 Halfway Point of Summer

• August 9 Book Lovers Day; National Hand-Holding Day

• August 15 National Relaxation Day; National I Love Cowboys and Cowgirls Day

• August 18 Bad Poetry Day

• August 19 National Aviation Day

• August 26 Women's Equality Day; Make Your Own Luck Day

• August 29 More Herbs, Less Salt Day



*This information was found in Chase's Calendar of Events.*

# LM Federal Programs Team Welcomes New Employees

by Naomi Krefman

Federal Programs Manager

Lead Account Clerks Kathleen Webb and Beth Krueger have joined the Library of Michigan's Federal Programs team, a section of the Business Services division. "While they share the title and workload of lead account clerks, they bring distinct work experience and strengths to complement the team," says Federal Programs Manager Naomi Krefman.

Kathy comes to the Library with strong bookkeeping experience that she developed as an accounting-purchasing assistant with Inco Development Corporation of Mason. Beth brings critical computer skills acquired through her pursuit of an associates degree in data accounting from Great Lakes Junior College and as an admissions secretary at Northwood University of Midland, Michigan.

Both Kathy and Beth will be working with the federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant program and with the collection and publication of library statistics. They join Naomi; Jayne Gerard, internal auditor/accountant; Janice Oakley, the senior accountant/analyst; and Denise Sachau, the data/financial analyst on the Federal Programs team.

## AccessMichigan Update

by Ruth Dukelow

Michigan Library Consortium

In July 1, 1998, **AccessMichigan** celebrated its one-year anniversary. Some of the milestones during this first year include

### **Steering Committee and Subcommittees**

"We've worked hard this first year to define AccessMichigan's mission and the role it will play in shaping the digital future of Michigan's libraries," said Sue Schwartz, Coordinator of Media & Technology Services REMC 13, Ingham Intermediate School District, chair of the **AccessMichigan** steering committee. "During the past year, we've set up subcommittees to address numerous issues, including criteria for database selection, communications and public relations, and grants and other funding."

Librarians from all types of libraries comprise the 24-member **AccessMichigan** steering committee appointed by the Library of Michigan and other Michigan library organizations. The steering committee appointed librarians to four subcommittees: communications, funding, database evaluation and SPAN. For further information about these committees, contact the **AccessMichigan** website at <http://www.accessmichigan.lib.mi.us/steering.htm>.

### **Statewide Databases**

Using Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds, the Library of Michigan provided statewide access to sixty databases. Michigan academic, public, school and special libraries received free access to IAC's General Reference Center Gold

database and to 59 databases through OCLC's First Search service, including full text from more than 1,000 journals. Between July 1997 and February 1998, Michigan libraries conducted 1,498,883 searches on FirstSearch and retrieved 250,628 full-text articles from FirstSearch databases. For more information about FirstSearch, visit the website at <http://www.accessmichigan.lib.mi.us/fs.htm>. To learn more about IAC's database, visit the website at <http://www.accessmichigan.lib.mi.us/iac.htm>.

### **Training**

Between July and October 1997, Michigan Library Consortium staff presented 30 FirstSearch "training the trainer" sessions at various locations throughout the state. Approximately 600 library staff attended these training sessions cosponsored by the library cooperatives. IAC staff also presented General Reference Center Gold training at various sites. After the initial MLC "train the trainer" sessions, several library cooperatives and REMCs offered FirstSearch and IAC training sessions to their member libraries.

### **SPAN**

For a SPAN update, please see Aaron Smith's article on page 3.

### **Video**

This summer, the communications subcommittee is working on the production of an AccessMichigan promotional video. The video, which will premiere this fall at the Michigan Library Association's annual conference in Grand Rapids, will be available for librarians and others to show at local meetings and on local cable stations.



The official groundbreaking for the new Oscoda County Library took place on May 6, 1998 at the corner of M-72 and Vine Street in Mio. The 6,600-square-foot building will be three times the size of the current library. Construction costs will run about \$420,000; another \$30,000 will be spent on furnishings, equipment, landscaping and technology. A \$189,000 Library of Michigan grant of federal funds from LSCA Title II, a \$70,000 loan from the Oscoda County government and library building project savings are funding the new library construction.

The Salem-South Lyon District Library held its Grand Opening open house on May 17, 1998. Activities planned for the day included a formal dedication, tours of the new building, refreshments, and special programs that featured a strolling magician. The new \$2.5-million building comfortably holds the library's 30,000 volumes with room to spare for new additions. Other features include automatic doors, a fully equipped meeting room with a kitchenette, a children's area furnished with rocking chairs and a play station, and comfortable easy chairs in the casual reading area." Library Director Nancy Noble says the library's customer service will triple with new professional staff added.

The Veterans Memorial Library recently expanded its on-line services, thanks to a \$100,000 Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) grant. A new computer network has been implemented that includes 4 adult, 3 young adult and 3 children's Internet workstations (see photo below). Lise Hedin, the technology coordinator at the library, will help implement the grant and supervise the installation of the network. The library staff is also in the process of selecting CD-ROM titles and other Internet subscriptions to enhance the library's Web resources.

The new Alcona County Library was dedicated Saturday, April 23, the last day of National Library Week. The new 8,200 square-foot facility opened on March 2, complete with a computer and training center, a gas log fireplace with natural fieldstone work and high wing-back chairs to complete the elegant setting. "This a place for everyone, not a warehouse for books," said State Librarian George Needham, who attended the festivities. The new library serves as the headquarters for three small branches and houses over 35,000 items, with room for much more.

The Lapeer County Library—Metamora Branch recently held a grand opening for its new library facility on April 4, 1998. Library Director Phyllis Clark presided over the opening-day ceremonies. The branch was awarded a 1995 LSCA Title II grant from the Library of Michigan for the acquisition and alteration of a building. The grant, which began in November 1996, required a 55 percent match paid by local funding. With this grant, the library increased its total area 460 percent, from 600 to 2,760 square feet.



The Howell Carnegie District Library recently received recognition as a Michigan historical site, complete with a historical marker from the State Historic Preservation Office. The dedication ceremony (right), held on May 17, 1998, was attended by Michigan Historical Commissioner Keith Molin and other state and local dignitaries. The Courthouse Square Questers Chapter 745, a group dedicated to historic preservation issues, raised the \$2,000 fee for the marker. Library officials were pleased when the questers proposed their plans for the state application process to gain the site historic recognition, according to Director Kathleen Zaenger. The library was founded when industrialist Andrew Carnegie donated \$15,000 to Howell Township for a free library building in 1902.

On May 4, 1998, the new Leslie Library received a \$42,130 grant from the Ronald McDonald House Charities to help pay for computers, desks

and other fixtures designated for the children's library services. This grant puts the library closer to its goal of \$100,000 to equip their new building.

Kolt, the city's public relations adviser and fundraising coordinator said an additional \$20,000 is needed. He and other supporters plan to apply for more foundation grants. The new Leslie Library will open sometime in August.



## Michigan Library Consortium Workshop Schedule

The Michigan Library Consortium has one of the largest, most extensive quality technical training programs for librarians and support staff in Michigan. It offers nearly 40 different programs throughout the year. Below are the offerings for July and August. For more information about these courses, visit the MLC webpage at <http://www.mlc.lib.mi.us>.

### July

13	OCLC Searching Basic
15	OCLC Copy Cataloging
24	OCLC ILL Basics
27	MARC: An Introduction
29	Descriptive Cataloging: Monographs

### August

4	OCLC Access Options
14	Assigning Library of Congress Subject Headings
19	OCLC Searching Advanced
29	Cataloging MicroEnhancer for Windows

## LSTA Subgrant Administration Workshops

The Library of Michigan will be offering two subgrant administration workshops for all recipients of FY 1998 LSTA awards. The workshops are designed to provide project management information to administer an LSTA subgrant effectively. Presenters will be staff from the Federal Programs Team of the Business Services Division at the Library of Michigan. These presenters work directly with the LSTA program and will guide recipients through the requirements of administering an LSTA subgrant. Workshop topics will include:

- Award Process
- Reimbursement Process
- Documentation Requirements
- Equipment
- Project Revisions
- Procurement
- Audit Compliance
- Reports

The workshops will be held at the Library of Michigan on September 16, 1998 in the Lake Ontario Room from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and in Gaylord at the Otsego County Library from 1:00 to 4:30 p.m. For more details or to obtain registration information, contact Donna Holdridge at 517-373-1587. LSTA awards will be announced in July.

## State Aid Payment Cycle Completed for Public Libraries

The recently approved guideline for submitting state aid applications in a timely manner was a success! The 1997-98 fiscal year state aid cycle for public libraries has been finalized. Public libraries began receiving their final payments the week of May 25, 1998.

In May 1997 the Legislative Council approved a new guideline that required a letter of intent to file an Annual Report/State Aid Application be postmarked **on or before February 1** in the absence of the Annual Report/State Aid Application that is due by that date each year. If the letter of intent was filed, the completed annual report must be postmarked no later than March 31. The intent of the guideline was to assist in completing the payment process earlier in the fiscal year by avoiding delays caused by a few late reports.

"Every year, there are a few libraries that do not file their annual reports until June or even as late as July," said Janet Laverty, director of Business Services. "The final calculations may not be made until all applications are received and processed. The late reports delay the entire payment process and often create a financial constraint for some of the libraries."

What are the benefits of these new guidelines? Final payments to public libraries were made two weeks earlier than last year, with only 1 percent of the public libraries denied state aid this year for failure to meet the deadline. The data for the Directory of Michigan Libraries and Michigan Libraries Statistics Report were entered and compiled for publishing ahead of schedule.

The per capita rate for libraries meeting the minimum requirements was \$477,544. For public libraries that are members of a public library cooperative prior to September 1, 1997, an additional payment at the same per capita rate was received to pay for services provided by the cooperative.

# Take a Virtual Tour of LM's Genealogy Collection

by Carey Draeger  
Public Information Officer



*It's so easy to visit the Library of Michigan's Genealogy Collection - just point and click your mouse!*

Want to learn more about the Library of Michigan's Abrams Foundation Historical Collection, but you can't travel to Lansing? You can still "stop by" via the Internet by taking a virtual tour. Located at <http://libofmich.lib.mi.us/genealogy/genetour.html>, the Genealogy Tour takes cyber-visitors from the genealogy desk to the stacks where publications such as the Michigan Federal Census indexes and other census materials for several states, family histories, genealogy "how-to" books, military service lists and various historical and genealogical periodicals are located. The tour highlights the electronic resources area behind the genealogy desk where visitors may access Ancestry.com; ANSWER, the Library's on-line catalog; the CD-ROM network and the World Wide Web.

Tour stops include the microfilm reading room and the microform room, which include state census records and the Library's large collection of Michigan newspapers. Visitors are then guided to the Michigan Collection, where materials about the Great Lakes state, its people and their history are located. Here aspiring genealogists may find Michigan Cemetery Source Book, business and city directories, county plat books and publications about Michigan's Native American tribes.

The last stop on this colorful tour is the Microforms and Maps room, which contains several large genealogy collec-

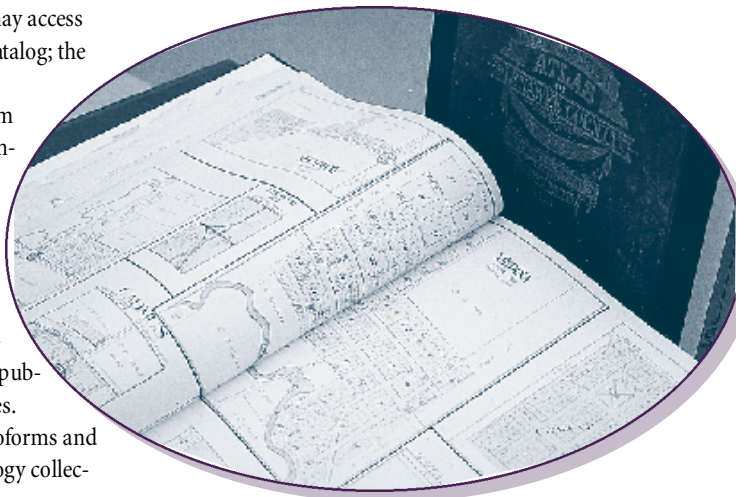
tions, such as the University Microfilms Incorporated (UMI) Genealogy and Local History Collection, the Civil War Unit Histories, the Michigan Pioneer Records Index and various records indexes from Illinois, Kentucky and Wisconsin.

It's clear that the LM staff who worked on setting up this tour put a great deal of time and effort into it. They started this project about a year ago. Librarian Charles Hagler handled the nuts-and-bolts aspects — gathering facts, writing text for the webpage, and arranging for photographs to be taken. Hagler also worked with Information Coordinator Cindy Krueger, who coded and programmed everything into the proper format for the webpage. "She'd never done anything like this before," said Randy Riley, the Michigan and genealogy special collections coordinator. "But she worked with us to get what we wanted out on the World Wide Web."

"I can't tell you how many nights I left here grinding my teeth because I couldn't figure out the best way to get something done," Krueger said with a smile. After reviewing books about creating websites and talking to other people who had developed similar projects, Krueger was able to create the kind of site the genealogy collection staff envisioned.

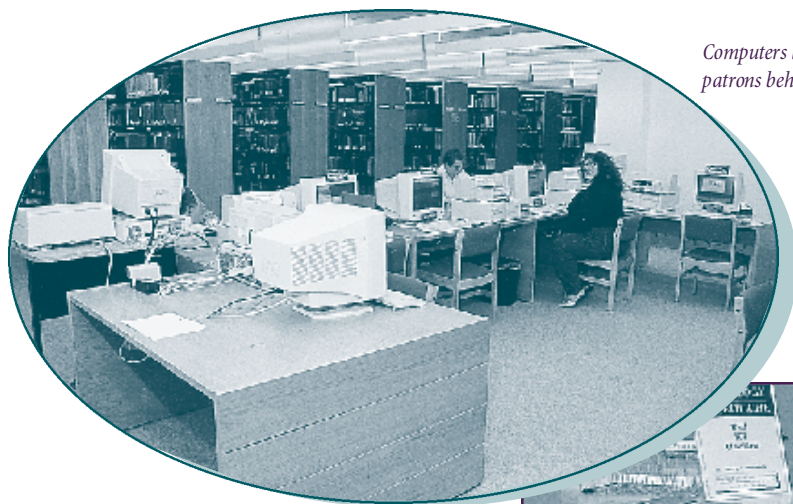
"It was a group effort," Riley added. "Marque Hodge from Business Services took the pictures, Marnie Childs from Public Information scanned the images in and Dan Michitsch from Network and Information Services helped Cindy put everything up on the library webpage."

In the short time this virtual tour has been available, it has garnered 5 percent of the "hits" made to the Library of Michigan webpage. "That makes sense," Krueger adds, "since the genealogy collection is the main reason why so many people come to the Library of Michigan."



*Within the genealogy collection you'll find county plat books, business directories and even a cemetery source book.*





*Computers linked to the Internet await genealogy patrons behind the LM Genealogy Desk.*

# LM's Genealogy Collection

*LM Librarians Charles Hagler and Debrah Diesen review some of the microfilmed genealogy materials located in the Microforms and Map Room.*



*Questions are cheerfully answered by genealogy staff members such as (from left), Randy Riley, Charles Hagler and Kyle Ripley, at the second-floor genealogy desk.*



*Genealogy stacks include non-Michigan printed materials, such as family histories, passenger lists and state, provincial and local records.*

## Two Michigan Libraries Selected for "Lives Worth Knowing"

**T**wo Michigan libraries were among the 35 selected nationwide to participate in the "Lives Worth Knowing" reading and discussion series organized by the New York Council for the Humanities in partnership with the American Library Association (ALA) Public Programs Office. The project is funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The Albion Public Library of Albion and the Rochester Hills Public Library in Rochester, Michigan, in late June sent to Washington, DC, a two-person team consisting of a library programmer and a scholar to a training seminar preceding the ALA Annual Conference. Project scholar Brenda Wineapple, Washington Irving professor of Modern Literary and Historical Studies at Union College, led a demonstration program focused on Philip Roth's *Patrimony*, a book from the "Intimate Portrait" series. The team from Albion consisted of Albion Library Program Director Kathleen Seidl and Albion College professor Trisha Franzen, who is the director for the Anna Howard Shaw Center for Women's Studies. The Rochester Hills Public Library sent Librarian Michelle McTeer-Wisniewski and Melodie Monahan, Ph.D., a writing consultant who also teaches at Wayne State University.

Participating libraries received multiple copies of books for the selected theme, reader's guides and \$400 toward the total scholar honorarium of \$800. Programs will be held between September and December 1998.

"Lives Worth Knowing" is devoted to four distinct issues of biography—"Distant Lives," "Intimate Portraits," "The Unfamous" and "The Way I See It." Each theme serves as the basis for a separate series with its own four-book reading list. Library programs will be led by a humanities scholar. Libraries will also work with community partners to bring many segments of their communities together to talk about biography.

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## 1998 Michigan Hospital Performance Report Issued

The Michigan Health and Hospital Association has issued its 1998 Michigan Hospital Performance Report. This is a voluntary report of the clinical performance of Michigan hospitals, including such information as mortality rates, quality of care, and average length of hospital stays. It also features special reports on cardiac care, hip and knee replacements and cesarean sections versus normal delivery of babies. Information about each hospital and comparative and summation statistics are also part of the report.

Public libraries in Michigan will receive copies of this report. It is also available on the Internet at <http://mel.lib.mi.us/health/health-hospital-hospitals.html>.

## Voters Approve 2 of 3 June Millages

by Jeff Johnson  
Deputy State Librarian

The Portage District Library's first operating millage of 1.5 mills was approved by a 2-to-1 margin on June 8. The vote allows two actions—it confirms the status of the new district library and also means a lower city tax rate for a time. The district library's provisional board will not levy a tax for six months, saving the average city taxpayer \$35 between now and the arrival of the winter tax bill.

The Sandusky Public Library won overwhelming voter approval for both a 1-mill charter levy to support library operations and a \$925,000 construction bond issue. Both ballot questions passed by a 4-to-1 margin. Construction of the new facility will move ahead. The library recently reorganized as a district library.

There was no joy in the Carsonville when two requests from the newly formed Sanilac District Library were rejected. A 1-mill operating levy and a 0.6-mill to finance the proposed expansion and improvement of the library building were voted down. Although another attempt for a millage is expected, the first priority of the library board will be determining budget cuts to stay within the available funding.

## Two Michiganians Chosen for ALA Scholarship Program

**T**wo Wayne State University (WSU) Library and Information Science Program students, both from Michigan, were among the 50 winners from across the country selected for the American Library Association's (ALA) Spectrum Initiative Scholarship Program. The ALA Spectrum Scholarship program was created to encourage and assist minorities in pursuing careers in library and information science.

The scholarship winners, Sophia Brewer from Grand Rapids and Shanti Satsangi from Canton, plan to begin classes at WSU this fall. The students will receive \$5,000 from ALA, an additional \$750 from the WSU Library and Information Science Program and another \$500 from the Michigan Library Association for a total scholarship amount of \$6,250.

Sophia Brewer has a bachelor degree in elementary science from Jackson State University and is currently employed as a library assistant with the Grand Rapids Public Library. Shanti Satsangi has a master's degree in philosophy from a university in India and currently works at the Canton Public Library.

# Trustees Corner



by Ellen Richardson  
Library Law Specialist

In the March/April 1998 issue of *Access*, this column addressed the new requirements for the investment of surplus funds by units of local government. Public Act 196 of 1977 was signed on December 30, 1997 with immediate effect. Many public libraries, in particular district libraries, are now included in the definition of a public corporation and must have an investment policy, many for the first time.

A number of agencies and organizations have come forward with training sessions and printed materials to assist the governing bodies in adopting or revising an investment policy that complies with the minimum requirements of the act. These opportunities have been publicized by professional organizations and associations, such as the Michigan Municipal League and various government treasurers' associations. Library directors and cooperative directors have advertised the availability of these seminars by announcements on listserves and by other professional networks. Some library trustees and directors have already been welcome participants in these events. Others have received materials and advice from retained legal counsel or financial advisors.

The State of Michigan's Department of Treasury has issued letter #98-3 (Investments) outlining the requirements of the act, reminding local units of the deadline for compliance, and supplying a sample policy, acknowledgment and agreement to comply. The final pages of the letter list investments that comply with the act and those that do not. Initially distributed to the county, city, village and township treasurers, the letter has now been distributed to all district libraries in a cooperative effort by the Library of Michigan and the State Department of Treasury. Other libraries that are responsible for their own investments may receive a copy of the letter by calling Ellen Richardson at the Library of Michigan at 517-373-1299 or the Local Audit and Finance Division of the Department of Treasury at 517-373-3227. This letter and other helpful materials are being distributed at most of the training sessions that address this issue.

The deadlines established by the act may be a cause of some concern. The act requires that an investment policy in substantial compliance with the act be adopted within 180 days after the end of the local unit's first fiscal year that ends after the effective date, December 30, 1997. Libraries that used the calendar year as their fiscal year had a year-end date of December 31, 1997, just one day after the act's effective date! These libraries must have an investment policy adopted by June 30, 1998. Libraries with other designated fiscal years have a bit more breathing space. Treasury Letter #98-3 contains a chart with year-end dates and subsequent deadlines for adoption of an investment policy.

The important thing, of course, is to adopt a policy in compliance with the act. Although these requirements may be viewed by some as burdensome red tape, they may also be seen as an opportunity to examine and refine the library's general financial policies and strategies. Ultimately, the requirement for a detailed and comprehensive investment policy will protect library trustees as they handle public funds. Trustees will need to review their understanding of public trust and their obligations to act with prudence and discretion. A good policy will also assure the public that its tax revenues and contributions in support of the library are being handled wisely.

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